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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMCC Selects Recipients of Annual Minerals Education Awards

Herndon, VA, February 28, 2014 —

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) recently announced the recipients of its 2014 annual minerals education awards. Begun in 1999, the minerals education awards are presented each year in two categories: the mining awareness educator category and the public outreach category. The mining awareness educator award is presented to a teacher or school from one of the 26 member states of the IMCC that has achieved excellence in one or more of the following categories: provided educational outreach in an innovative manner that increases the level of understanding in the classroom and/or community about mining and its impacts; promoted environmental stewardship while enhancing the understanding of issues associated with mining and natural resource development; and/or created unique educational materials or curriculum demonstrating the production and/or use of minerals and associated environmental protection. The criteria can

be met through classroom and/or out-of-classroom (i.e. field trips, mine tours, etc.) activities. The winner will receive a framed award certificate and a $500 gift certificate for classroom resource materials.

The public outreach award is presented to an industry, environmental, citizen or other group, or to a state government body, that has achieved excellence in one or more of the following categories: provided educational outreach in an innovative manner that increases the level of understanding in the community about mining and its impacts; promoted awareness of environmental stewardship associated with mining through active involvement of citizens; fostered cooperation and partnerships with diverse groups to achieve understanding; enhanced the understanding of issues associated with mining and natural resource development; and/or fostered public education through mine tours, visitor centers, community awareness days, career days, personnel volunteerism in the schools, maintaining adopt-a-school programs or education partnerships, or any other innovative initiative deemed deserving by the awards committee.

The minerals education awards will be presented at a banquet held in conjunction with the IMCC Annual Meeting, April 27 - 30, 2014 in Reno, Nevada.

The winner in the public outreach category for 2014 is the Nevada Mining Association's Education Committee located in Reno, Nevada for its teacher workshop program.

Since 1984, the Nevada Mining Association, through their Education Committee, has partnered with the Nevada Division of Minerals to offer earth science and mineral education workshops for teachers. Currently, two workshops are held each year, one in southern Nevada and the other in northern Nevada. The workshops are accredited as courses by the State of Nevada Department of Education, the University of Nevada - Las Vegas, and the University of Nevada - Reno, and are offered for both university credit and professional development (PDE) credit. The workshops are open to all teachers of grades K-12, school administrators and librarians. There is no charge for the workshops (except for the

cost of university or PDE credit, if desired). From 1984 through 2013, a total of 5,712 teachers have attended these workshops. The workshops are designed so that participants will: receive and share information to increase their knowledge of the earth sciences; analyze information to develop lesson plans appropriate to their grade level; and understand the importance of mining and the minerals industry to modern society. Teachers receive hands-on instruction from knowledgeable professionals and a large variety of educational materials to use in their classrooms. The workshops include field trips to operating mines and points of geologic interest. All classroom activities and presentation materials are aligned to state and federal science education standards. The Nevada Mining Association's Education Committee is responsible for all aspects of the workshops, including planning, development of hands-on activities, session materials, classroom instruction, field trip coordination, and the collection and preparation of mineral and rock samples for teacher kits. The Committee consists of staff from the Nevada Mining Association and the Nevada Division of Minerals, as well as a large and passionate group of current and former educators and mining professionals.

The Committee's program has had impacts beyond the borders of the state as well. They have generously shared information and activities they developed over the years with others interested in minerals education, including IMCC's own Education Work Group. Some activities developed by the Committee are also used in other education programs throughout the country that have been nominated for the IMCC Public Outreach Award over the years, and by educators who have been past winners of the IMCC Educator Awareness Award. The Committee also provides free-use year-round access to mineral education information on the Nevada Mining Association's website.

The winner in the mining awareness educator category for 2014 is Robert Livingston, lead instructor for the Mining Technology program at Gillette College in Gillette, Wyoming. Mr. Livingston has played an integral part in developing a mature and high caliber Mining Technology program that is coordinated with hands-on technology demonstrations at Gillette College. He also serves as the key advisor to students in the program, and is a Faculty Senate Committee member.

In addition to teaching courses, Mr. Livingston has personally developed five mining and reclamation courses for Gillette College students in the Mining Technology degree program based on his extensive field experience in the mining sector, as well as collaborative input from mining and environmental staff from several Powder River Basin coal mining companies. He is able to provide real-life examples from the industry, increasing the practical value of each course both to the students and their future employers. In addition to incorporating field demonstrations at coal mines into his teaching, Mr. Livingston uses innovative and state-of-the-art hands-on tools to ensure that students have an applicable understanding of them. These tools include innovative software programs and a fluvial geomorphology table to demonstrate multiple erosional conditions and potential contamination situations that will need to be addressed. The table is designed with several settings and formats to allow instruction about erosion, various mining scenarios, water behavior, sedimentation, and stream formations, among other situations. It can be used to mimic diverse real-world scenarios that facilitate education sessions for students in a broad spectrum of learning phases – from elementary grades to college students – providing the basis for a wide variety of lessons via a hands-on approach. Mr. Livingston also developed courses focused on environmental compliance and mine reclamation in which he emphasizes the importance and necessity of integrating environmental stewardship into the decision-making processes and implementation of mining and reclamation.

Through his teaching and use of innovative state-of-the-art tools, Mr. Livingston is advancing the caliber of the mining technology program's graduates and future mining professionals. The program also helps students develop leadership skills in business and communication. He has provided focused packages of classes in blocks and timing tailored to accommodate the schedules of working students striving to advance in the field. He has been instrumental in developing an Associate Degree program that provides a foundation for immediate application in the fields as well as a basis for more advanced degree studies for those who wish to pursue them. To that end, he has also cultivated relationships with other educational institutions and facilitated the advancement of many students wishing to pursue further

education.

In addition to the award winners, two honorable mentions will be presented this year in the public outreach category to the Eastern Coal Council in Richlands, Virginia, and the Grove Stone and Sand Company/Hedrick Industries in Swannanoa, NC.

For further information about the awards or the IMCC Annual Meeting, contact Beth A. Botsis, Deputy Executive Director, IMCC at 703/709-8654, fax 703/709-8655, or email: bbotsis@imcc.isa.us Awards program and Annual Meeting information can also be found on IMCC's web site at www.imcc.isa.us. – END –